

**U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
REGION II, REMOVAL ACTION BRANCH  
POLLUTION REPORT**

**I. HEADING**

Date: April 13, 1999

From: Eric J. Wilson, On-Scene-Coordinator  
U.S. EPA, Region II, Removal Action Branch

*Buele*

To:

|                     |                             |
|---------------------|-----------------------------|
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| J. Pasqualo, NJDHSS | J. Smolenski, NJDEP         |
| START               | J. Corica, South Plainfield |

Subject: **Cornell-Dubilier Electronics Site, Residential Cleanup  
South Plainfield, Middlesex County, New Jersey**

POLREP: Four (4)

**II. BACKGROUND**

|                              |                             |
|------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Site No:                     | GZ                          |
| Delivery Order No.:          | 0017                        |
| Response Authority:          | CERCLA                      |
| CERCLIS No.:                 | NJD981557879                |
| NPL Status:                  | Final NPL                   |
| State Notification:          | NJDEP and NJDHSS Notified   |
| Status of Action Memorandum: | Approved Septemebr 19, 1998 |
| Start Date RV2:              | March 29, 1998              |
| Start Date BB2:              | August 12, 1998             |
| Start Date BB3:              | March 31, 1999              |

**III. SITE INFORMATION**

The site is located in an mixed industrial, commercial and residential area of South Plainfield, New Jersey and consists of the Hamilton Industrial Park, adjacent contaminated residential and commercial properties and contaminated portions of the Bound Brook downstream of the industrial park. Cornell-Dubilier Electronics operated at the industrial park from 1936 to 1962 and allegedly disposed of polychlorinated biphenyl (PCB) contaminated materials and

other hazardous substances directly onto site soils. PCBs have been detected in soils and in building interiors at the industrial park, at adjacent residential and commercial properties and in the surface water and sediment of the Bound Brook.

In March 1997 EPA ordered the owner of the industrial park to take actions to stabilize the site. These actions were completed in September 1997 and included the installation of drainage controls to limit the movement of contaminants to the nearby Bound Brook through surface water run-off; paving of driveways and parking areas in the industrial park to limit the migration of contaminants in airborne dust; and installation of security fence to restrict access to contaminated areas, and prevent the tracking of contaminants into the surrounding community.

#### IV. RESPONSE INFORMATION

##### A. Situation

##### 1. Current Situation

In July 1998, the site was listed on the National Priorities List (NPL).

##### 2. Removal activities (through 3/26/99)

##### Interior Cleaning (RV2)

The interiors of 7 Tier 1 homes were cleaned by EPA in April 1998. Post-cleaning dust samples were collected from each home to determine the effectiveness of PCB removal. EPA collected dust samples from 26 Tier 2 homes in April 1998. Three additional homes were sampled by EPA in October 1998. Interior dust samples have been collected from a total of 40 homes to date.

The Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Control (ATSDR) reviewed the results of sampling conducted in April and October 1998 and determined that health concerns or potential health concerns exist from exposure to PCBs in interior house dust for residents of 3 of the 7 Tier 1 homes cleaned by EPA in April 1998 and 6 Tier 2 homes. ATSDR recommended that actions be taken to reduce or stop potential exposure to indoor dust contaminated with PCBs at levels of public health concern.



On September 23, 1998 an Action Memorandum was approved authorizing an increase in the project ceiling and exemption from 12-month statutory limit on removal actions for this Site. The scope of work authorized includes cleaning and removal of PCB contaminated dust from residential homes at the Site as necessary to address actual or potential public health concerns.

In February 1999, 1 Tier 1 home and 4 Tier 2 homes were cleaned by EPA. The cleaning procedures employed include: wiping down all horizontal exposed surfaces; vacuuming floors, drapes, upholstery, molding and window casings using HEPA vacuums; washing all tile, linoleum and wood floors; cleaning heating and cooling ducts; cleaning or replacing all filters on air handling equipment and removal and replacement of carpets and area rugs. Soil removal is required at the remaining 4 homes which require cleaning. The interior cleaning will be completed after the soil removal is completed.

A total of \$20,000 has been transferred from the contingency to the EPA ceiling to cover oversight costs for this removal action.

#### Tier 1 Residential Soil Removal (BB2)

In August 1998 EPA ordered past owner/operator of the industrial park Cornell-Dubilier Electronics and current owner, DSC of Newark to conduct a removal action at six residential properties. These properties were included in the Tier 1 sampling conducted by EPA in October 1997 and are located southwest of the industrial park on Spicer Avenue. The scope of work for this removal action (BB2) includes the removal and off-site disposal of PCB-contaminated soils from these properties and restoration of the properties to pre-construction conditions. EPA approved the work plan for this removal action on December 12, 1998.

On March 15, 1999, the PRP's Contractors mobilized to the Site and began preparations for the excavation of PCB contaminated soils from residential properties. A staging area was established at the Hamilton Industrial Park Site.

On March 16, preparations were made to begin excavation at 204 Spicer Avenue. Site preparations included: a survey of the property; mark out of underground utilities; and identification of work zones and excavation areas.

Excavation at 204 Spicer was initiated on Wednesday, March 17. Contaminated soils were loaded directly into dump trucks for transportation to the disposal facility. As of Friday March 19, only 30% of the planned excavation at this property was completed. Excavation at this property was scheduled to be completed in 4 days. In an attempt to expedite removal activities, excavation and material handling procedures were reevaluated and modified. In place of direct loading into trucks for direct transportation to the disposal facility, excavated soils were transported to a temporary staging area at the Hamilton Industrial Park site for loadout.

During excavation operations, continuous air monitoring was conducted to quantify the concentration of dust in air in the vicinity of excavations. The results of this air monitoring program confirmed that dust concentrations remained below applicable standards and site-specific action levels.

By the end of the day March 26, a total of 12 truck loads of contaminated soils were transported to G.R.O.W.S. Landfill, Morrisville Pennsylvania for disposal.

#### Tier 2 Residential Soil Removal (BB3)

In March 1999, EPA ordered potentially responsible parties (PRPs) Cornell-Dubilier Electronics and Dana Corporation to conduct a removal action at an additional seven residential properties. These properties were included in the Tier 2 sampling conducted by EPA in April 1998 and are located west and southwest of the industrial park on Hamilton Boulevard and Delmore Avenue. On March 31 and April 1 the PRPs contractor collected soil samples from these properties to delineate the limits of excavation.

### **3. Enforcement**

PRPs for the Site have been ordered to remove contaminated soil from 13 residential properties.

#### **B. Planned Removal Activities**

Soil removal is planned at 6 Tier 1 and 7 Tier 2 residential properties. Interior cleaning is planned at 2 Tier 1 and 2 Tier 2 homes.



C. Next Steps

The results of sampling conducted at commercial properties bordering the Hamilton Industrial Park will be evaluated by EPA and ATSDR to determine if public health concerns exist from exposure to PCBs at these locations.

D. Key Issues

None.

V. COST INFORMATION (Fund-Lead Removal Actions through 3/26/99)

|             |    | <u>Amount<br/>Budgeted</u> | <u>Cost<br/>To Date</u> | <u>Amount<br/>Remaining</u> |
|-------------|----|----------------------------|-------------------------|-----------------------------|
| ERRS Costs  | \$ | 332,000                    | 173,513                 | 158,487                     |
| START Costs | \$ | 22,000                     | 6,989                   | 15,011                      |
| Contingency | \$ | 21,000                     | n/a                     | 21,000                      |
| EPA Costs   | \$ | <u>50,000</u>              | <u>35,574</u>           | <u>14,426</u>               |
| Total Costs | \$ | 425,000                    | \$ 216,076              | \$ 208,924                  |

The above accounting of expenditures is an estimate based on figures known to the OSC at the time this report was written. The cost accounting provided in this report does not necessarily represent an exact monetary figure which the government may include in any claim for cost recovery.

VI. DISPOSITION OF WASTES (through 3/26/99)

| Wastestream                   | Medium      | Quantity | Treatment     | Disposal                  |
|-------------------------------|-------------|----------|---------------|---------------------------|
| Decontamination Solids (RV2)  | Soil/Solids | 4 drums  | TSCA Landfill | CWM, Model City, NY       |
| Decontamination Liquids (RV2) | Liquids     | 5 drums  | Incineration  | CWM, Model City, NY       |
| Non-TSCA Regulated Soil (BB2) | Soil        | 300 tons | Landfill      | G.R.O.W.S Morrisville, PA |